

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 018865 TOSEC 010257

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 018865 TOSEC 010257

NODIS
FOR DAY FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: RABIN VISIT: SUGGESTED CHANGE TO PRESIDENT'S
BILATERAL PAPER

1. IN VIEW OF PREMATURE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PRESIDENT'S
PROPOSAL FOR DOLLARSONE BILLION IN FMS FOR ISRAEL IN FY 77,
SUGGEST WE CHANGE FY 77 ASSISTANCE LEVELS PORTION OF
PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL ISSUES PAPER AS FOLLOWS.

2. REPLACE SECOND PARA THIS SECTION WITH QUOTE: AS YOU
KNOW, WITH THE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF OUR PROPOSED DOLLARS
ONE BILLION FIGURE FOR ISRAEL IN FMS CREDITS IN FY-77, THE
AID QUESTION HAS BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE. WE CAN EXPECT THAT

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RABIN WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO SEEK AN EXPLANATION FROM
YOU FOR THE REDUCTION FROM THE FY-76 LEVEL, PERHAPS TO
PRESS FOR RECONSIDERATION AND ALSO, PERHAPS, TO USE THE

REDUCED FIGURE AS ONE OF THE REASONS HE CANNOT NOW SHOW
GREATER NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY. YOUR OBJECTIVES IN DIS-
CUSSING THIS ISSUE WILL BE:

--TO AVOID PERMITTING RABIN TO USE THIS ISSUE TO DEFLECT
YOUR DISCUSSION FROM THE QUESTION OF THE NEED FOR MOVEMENT
IN NEGOTIATIONS;

--TO AVOID GETTING INTO A DISPUTATIOUS DISCUSSION OF THE
DETAILS OF ISRAEL'S ANALYSIS OF ITS NEEDS VERSUS OURS;

--TO CONVINCE HIM THAT THIS IS ALL WE CAN DO, THAT WE
FEEL IT IS ADEQUATE TO ISRAEL'S NEEDS, AND THAT ISRAELIS
MUST UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIMITS WE
FACE IN MEETING ISRAEL'S GROWING DEMANDS.

3. ADD FOLLOWING AS FIRST THREE TALKING POINTS:

--THE PREMATURE -- BY THREE WEEKS -- PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
OF OUR PROPOSED FY-77 MILITARY SALES CREDIT FIGURE FOR
ISRAEL MAY HAVE CAUSED YOU SOME DIFFICULTY; IF SO, I
AM SORRY;

--WE, OF COURSE, HAVE INFORMED YOUR GOVERNMENT OF THE
TOTAL FY 77 FIGURES, AND OF THE BASIS UPON WHICH I MADE
THE DECISION;

--THE POINT IS, THAT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IN ADVANCE OF MY
PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS DOES NOT REALLY CHANGE ANY-
THING FUNDAMENTAL AND IT SHOULD NOT BECOME AN ISSUE
BETWEEN US DURING YOUR VISIT. CLOSE QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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